

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

April 2, 2009

BUENA VISTA LAGOON STATE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

File No. 08-144-04

Project Manager: Deborah Ruddock

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and augment the Conservancy's December 4, 2008 authorization in order to disburse an additional amount of up to \$540,000 to complete preliminary engineering design and environmental review for restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon, San Diego County.

LOCATION: Cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside in northern San Diego County (Exhibit 1).

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Resource Enhancement

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Conservancy's authorization of December 4, 2008](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letter](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31251-31270 of the Public Resources Code:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes acceptance of a grant in the amount of one million five-hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and augments the Conservancy's December 4, 2008 authorization in order to disburse an additional amount of up to five-hundred forty thousand dollars (\$540,000) to complete preliminary engineering design and environmental review for restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon, San Diego County. This authorization remains subject to the conditions of the

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December 4, 2008 authorization for the same project and is subject to an additional condition that prior to the disbursement of the SANDAG funds, the Conservancy's Executive Officer shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with SANDAG, under terms acceptable to the Executive Officer, for acceptance of these funds for the project."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that the proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's findings under its December 4, 2008 authorization."

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy accept a grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 from SANDAG and augment its December 4, 2008 authorization to disburse an additional amount of up to \$540,000 in SANDAG funds to complete preliminary engineering design and environmental review for the restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon, San Diego County. The goal of the project is to enhance and restore the biological functions and values of the Buena Vista Lagoon State Ecological Reserve, which is adjacent to Interstate 5 and astride the boundary between the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad (Exhibit 1). The project history is described in detail in the attached December 4, 2008 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

The funding for this augmented authorization is part of a program to identify potential mitigation projects for transportation improvement impacts in north San Diego County (See Exhibit 3) and will fund additional preliminary engineering design and environmental review.

Project History: On December 4, 2008 the Conservancy authorized disbursement of \$600,000 in Conservancy funds for preliminary engineering design and environmental review for this project. Subsequent to that approval, SANDAG approved a grant of an amount up to \$1,500,000 to the Conservancy for this project and the San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy (12/4/2008 authorization)	600,000
SANDAG (through Conservancy Grant)	540,000
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	500,000
Total Project Costs	\$ 1,640,000

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The source of funds for this authorization is a grant to the Conservancy from SANDAG via the Department of Transportation (CalTrans) (See Exhibit 3). SANDAG and CalTrans are currently proposing a major expansion of Interstate 5, one of the three major transportation corridors that bisect the lagoon. SANDAG has agreed to partially fund the proposed project because of its interest in identifying potential environmental mitigation projects for the Interstate 5 widening project. The funding for the Interstate 5 widening will come from a half-cent sales tax for local transportation projects called TransNet, which includes \$850,000,000 for an environmental mitigation program. This environmental mitigation program will potentially fund the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of open space and wetlands areas throughout San Diego County.

As mentioned in the December 4, 2008 staff report, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will contribute \$500,000 to the project, secured by the Department and the USFWS as part of the September 2008 lagoon sewage spill settlement agreement between the Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) and the cities of Vista and Carlsbad.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION, 2007
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S), PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA
& GUIDELINES, LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES and CEQA:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's December 4, 2008 authorization in these areas (Exhibit 2).